

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, lines 9-16, as follows:

The above-described embodiments of the invention are intended to be illustrative only. For example, although illustrated using HDLC and PPP, the invention can be used with other protocols, and other types of PDUs. In addition, other types of in-band signaling may be used to convey an in-band flow control message from a ~~PDU~~ PLD to an LLD, and other types of in-band flow control message formats may be used. Also, the particular traffic shaping arrangements may be varied, and as a more particular example, selection between any number of scheduling rates or other traffic shaping characteristics may be provided. These and numerous other alternative embodiments within the scope of the following claims will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.